

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR SHEILA KUEHL

April 5, 2016

The Liberty Canyon parcel is a tax-defaulted, approximately 40-acre, key portion of the wildlife movement corridor in the Santa Monica Mountains south of U.S. Route 101. Migration through the parcel augments wildlife use of the existing Liberty Canyon Road freeway underpass. The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) owns and/or manages adjacent open space and park lands and has entered into a Chapter 8 Agreement with the County of Los Angeles Treasurer and Tax Collector to purchase the Liberty Canyon parcel.

The Rocky Ledge/Dix Creek parcel is a high priority acquisition located in a Sensitive Environmental Resource Area (SERA), in the Santa Monica Mountains Coastal Zone/Topanga Canyon Watershed. The parcel abuts existing parkland owned and managed by the MRCA, is consistent with the Malibu Local Coastal Zone Plan, and includes approximately one acre of oak woodland, riparian and chaparral habitats, and a portion of a blueline stream.

On October 15, 2013, the Board of Supervisors, acting as the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, allocated and awarded a \$56,000 grant to MRCA for acquisition of the Rocky Ledge/Dix Creek parcel,

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and found the acquisition to be categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act. MRCA is now negotiating an agreement to purchase the parcel from the private owner. However, due to increasing values in the local real estate market, the appraised value of the parcel has increased by approximately \$165,000. MRCA has identified additional California Coastal Commission grant funds for the majority of the shortfall, and \$20,000 remains to be funded.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors, acting as the Board of Directors for the Los Angeles Regional Park and Open Space District:

1. Find the Liberty Canyon acquisition project to be categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act. The project, which involves the acquisition of land to preserve open space and wildlife habitat, is within certain classes of projects that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment in that it meets the criteria set forth in Section 15325 of the State CEQA Guidelines and Class 25 of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the project consists of acquisition of land in order to preserve open space and wildlife habitat;
2. Allocate \$70,000 in Specified Excess Funds, available to the Third District, to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority as follows: \$50,000 to fund the Liberty Canyon Acquisition Project and \$20,000 to supplement the Rocky Ledge Acquisition Project; and
3. Authorize the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, as the Director of the Regional Park and Open Space District, to award a grant and a grant amendment to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority

for the projects and amounts listed when applicable conditions have been met and to administer the grant and grant amendment pursuant to the Procedural Guide previously adopted by this Board.

S: MCC/Open Space Land Acquisitions